

# A CARD

In view of certain rumors to the effect that we, either individually, or jointly, are interested in or about to become interested in certain mineral water property other than the Buffalo Lithia Springs Water property, and in view of the fact that the numerous inquiries we are receiving would indicate that these rumors have been accredited by the public, we think it well to state as follows: We, the undersigned, have absolutely no connection either individually or jointly, directly or indirectly, with any mineral water property or any resort property, either in the State of Virginia or elsewhere except the Buffalo Lithia Springs property. We have at this time no intention of forming any such connection, nor have we at any time had any such intention. Any report to this effect is without foundation in fact and is not authorized by us in any way. No member of the Buffalo Lithia Springs Water Company has any connection with any other mineral water property, either directly or indirectly, other than the Buffalo Lithia Springs Water property, and the use of the name of any member of the company in connection with any other property of this nature is entirely without foundation.

E. C. GOODE,  
T. F. GOODE,  
ST. JOHN C. GOODE.

# VINDICATE PLANS, BUT MAY CENSURE OFFICERS

Witness Who Said Rotten Concrete Was Used on Flume Not Likely to Appear.

## ONE MORE SESSION ENDS IT

Evidence Practically In, Committee's Work Now Being Confined to Report to Council.

With the evidence practically all in, the special committee on investigation of the setting basin flume will begin this week the formulation of its report to be submitted to a special meeting of the Council. One more session for taking testimony may be held to hear a man who is said to have told Chairman Mills of the Water Committee something about the use of rotten concrete. The man is reported to be out of town, and when on the stand Mr. Mills declined to give his name without his consent. Evidence of this character, however, would be largely cumulative, and the essential points of the inquiry may be regarded as covered.

Being in a semi-judicial position, the members of the investigating committee are, of course, not discussing the tenor of the report for publication. Their individual attitudes can, however, be largely gathered from the disclosures of their cross-examination of various witnesses. The inquiry has been conducted by Chairman Gilbert K. Pollock, assisted in the examination of witnesses by City Attorney Pollard. Councilman Lynch has been an active committee man, and has been pronounced in his views on some of the disclosures. Aldermen Whitely and Richardson have asked but few questions, and have given no indication of their views, but have paid close attention and made notes from time to time. Councilman Davis has shown more familiarity with concrete work and hydraulics than any of the members, and his questions have been direct and informing.

City Engineer Bolling has had the privilege of cross-examining each witness. In the earlier sittings the Crouse Construction Company has been represented by Fredrick and Cooke, Richmond, and Chairman Mills and former Chairman Mann, of the Water Committee, have been regular in attendance.

Plans Violent. It did not need the inquiry to demonstrate that the flume, after its failure, had been already shown, and expert engineers employed by the Water Committee have already filed a preliminary report, recommending the laying of a cast iron pipe line of smaller size than the wrecked flume, as an emergency measure to get the use of the setting basin.

The essential elements of the investigation have been the utter collapse of the city's attempts to inspect or supervise the work, the flume after almost built itself, while employees of the contractor have testified that they were under instructions to trick the inspectors and reduce the amount of cement below specifications whenever possible. Departures from the plans and specifications were apparently treated with utter indifference, both by the contractors and inspectors.

Recent testimony has gone far to vindicate the city's plan. The concrete flume has been shown by accounts of those who have examined the drawings and by the statement of Colonel C. P. E. Burghy, who is now offering to erect a new concrete flume, that Mr. Bolling's original plans were, generally speaking, correct.

Evidence shows, in fact, that a concrete flume, once in successful operation, would be practically indestructible, and, barring earthquakes, would last as long as the city stands. The various wooden conduits proposed would be constantly in need of repairing and replacing. The cast-iron pipe now recommended has only about two-thirds of the carrying capacity of the concrete flume, and the growth of the city might require a supplemental pipe within the next ten or fifteen years, while the life of any metal pipe line, above ground and exposed to climatic changes of flood, ice, sunshine and frost, would necessarily be limited. The breaking of the line at any time in the future, cutting connection with the setting basin, might necessitate pumping into the reservoir of muddy water directly from the river.

Failure of Inspection. A test section, ten feet in length, is now being erected in the grounds of the Lower Gas Works, in which the concrete will be mixed and the wires tied exactly in accordance to the instructions given, the section to be later tested by a force pump under the pressure for which the flume was calculated.

Against City Engineer Bolling there

remains the appointment of incompetent and inexperienced inspectors, and failure to see that they were more closely attending to their work. It is probable that the report will also indicate that changes made by authority of Mr. Bolling from the original contract should have been in writing.

Mr. Charles Mann, the concrete inspector, seems to come off better than the other inspectors, though it is in evidence that he was tricked daily as to the amount of cement being used. Put on the job without experience and with only verbal instructions, he claims to have done all that he was told, though admitting that he was far from adequately inspecting the work. Continuous dumping of the concrete instead of putting it in tamped layers, and any makeshift arrangement of the wire reinforcement, seemed satisfactory to Mr. Mann, who showed on the stand an ignorance of the general specifications.

Fall of Feeder Wall. Mr. Richard Bolling, the resident engineer in charge, and his assistant, Mr. Charles Bolling and Mr. Clinton, seem to have neglected their work without reason, the evidence being that they only went to the work when sent for, then staked off the lines and came back to the city. Mr. Clinton admitted having been on the work but four times in August, 1908, when it was thought that the flume was being rushed to completion. Both Mr. Richard Bolling and Mr. Clinton were inspectors on the original feeder wall at the setting basin, which fell and was replaced.

It came out in the investigation that when the contractor came to replace the fallen wall, it was necessary to go four and one-half feet deeper for a distance of fifty or more yards, the original wall, which was inspected by Messrs. Bolling and Clinton, and which fell, having been built according to the evidence of the inspector, on soft, sandy stone and rotten timbers, which were cut away. After this signal failure in inspection, members of the committee are disposed to criticize the City Engineer for continuing the resident engineers in the employ of the city. Apparently it did not come out in the investigation by engineers of the cause of the fall of the feeder wall, that it was not laid on rock foundation as required, the engineers recommending that it be rebuilt on a wider base.

Used One-Third Less Cement. The inquiry has served to greatly strengthen the committee's opinion against the Crouse Construction Company. It being shown that they departed freely from the specifications, while one of the foremen has sworn that when Inspector Mann was not present he was instructed to put in three bags of cement instead of four, into each batch of concrete, the committee has decided that 3,000 barrels of cement were tested, while the cubic area of the flume would require nearly 5,000, and Superintendent Hodgson's testimony that 4,850 were used, show either that one-third of the cement was not inspected at all or else that one-third less cement was used. The mixture would be quite in either case, the point will be in the city's favor in the litigation.

To-night the Water Committee will have a public discussion of Engineer Burghy's plan for a new concrete flume, all persons interested being invited to attend.

No Meeting To-Night.

The regular weekly meeting of the Council, at 8 P. M., will not be held to-night on account of the Chamber-Alexander meetings.

# THE WEATHER

Forecast: Virginia—Generally fair Monday and Tuesday; moderate northwest winds, becoming variable.

Conditions Yesterday. Richmond's weather was cold and cloudy. Thermometer at midnight, 33.

Conditions in Important Cities. (At 8 P. M. Eastern Standard Time.)

Place. Ther. H.T. Weather. Asheville..... 34 38 Rain. Augusta..... 34 38 Rain. Atlanta..... 38 42 Clear. Baltimore..... 38 42 Clear. Buffalo..... 28 30 Rain. Chicago..... 28 30 Clear. Cincinnati..... 28 30 Cloudy. Davenport..... 28 30 Clear. Detroit..... 28 30 Rain. Kansas City..... 28 30 Rain. New Orleans..... 64 66 Clear. New York..... 34 38 Cloudy. Oklahoma City..... 28 30 Clear. Pittsburgh..... 28 30 Rain. Raleigh..... 44 48 Rain. Savannah..... 44 48 Rain. Norfolk..... 44 48 Rain. Tampa..... 64 74 Clear. Washington..... 34 38 Rain. Wilmington..... 44 48 Rain. Yellowstone..... 40 42 Rain.

MINIATURE ALMANAC. Sun rises.....7:24. Moon sets.....5:18. Moon rises.....3:45. HIGH TIDE. Morning.....1:45. Evening.....2:01.

# LOCAL BUSINESS MEN PREPARE FOR SAILORS

Seamen of Atlantic Squadron May Be Invited to Spend Vacation in This City.

## FLEET COMES IN FEBRUARY

Virginia Built Vessels Make Wonderful Record on Cruise, Eclipsing Any in History.

Completing the greatest cruise in the history of the navy of the world—a voyage of 42,000 miles around the globe—the sixteen powerful battleships of Rear Admiral Sperry's Atlantic fleet will steam into the Virginia capes at noon February 23d, the one hundred and seventy-seventh anniversary of the birth of General George Washington.

Virginia is preparing to give the home-coming men-of-war, their officers and crews a welcome that will equal, if not surpass, in warmth and in grandeur any they have been accorded on the long and memorable voyage.

Thousands of people, including families and relatives of many of the officers and seamen, will assemble on the shores of Virginia's magnificent roadstead to voice a heartfelt welcome to the ships, various kinds of entertainments for the officers and men will be arranged, and there is much talk among business men and others of bringing some of the men to Richmond.

The trip of this city would be a welcome outing to the seamen after their long and tiresome voyage around the world, and it would give Richmond people an opportunity to give the fleet a taste of real Southern hospitality. It would be a momentous event in the city's history, and the matter will be immediately taken up by the local business interests.

The ships will remain in Hampton Roads for one week, and then they will proceed to their "home" navy yards for repairs before the annual spring manoeuvres and target practice in the tropics. The other eight will stay at Old Point until after the inauguration of President-elect Taft, on March 4th. From the crews of these ships about 2,000 seamen will be picked and sent to Washington to take part in the inaugural parade.

On December 16, 1907, 10,000 people watched while the six battleships steamed slowly out of Hampton Roads on their memorable voyage. At that time the ultimate destination of the fleet was unknown.

All kinds of rumors about a war with Japan were circulated. Those who had heard of the beautiful winter's day believed that the ships and men would be called upon when they reached the Pacific to decide the destiny of the United States in Eastern waters.

Flow Virginia's Flag. At the mouth of the Chesapeake, Connecticut floated the twin-starred blue flag of "Fighting Bob" Evans, a son of Virginia. When the fleet had passed through the treacherous Straits of Magellan, the announcement came that it would travel around the world.

# TO TRY LEWIS OR SHOOTING KROUSE

Lawyers for the Defense Believe They Can Prove Ailbi for Their Client.

Arthur Lewis, the negro who was arrested some time ago on a charge of shooting Mounted Policeman Krouse and robbing and burning the little cook shop of Mrs. Annie Dollard, near the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad shops, will be tried in the Hustings Court this morning, and defended by Messrs. Hiram Smith and R. N. Pollard.

Though Lewis has been identified by the officer as the negro who shot him, the man he saw jumping from a window in the cook shop, it is alleged by the lawyers for the defense that they were unable to find any one who saw that Lewis was in the city at the time of the shooting, and that there will be plenty of witnesses to prove the contrary.

Krouse was shot by some negro as he commanded him to halt in the middle of the county road. He suspected the man of having committed arson and burglary, and halted him. The negro wheeled and fired, the bullet taking effect in the right side of the officer's chest. He fell to the ground, but managed to drag himself to a nearby house, where he was later picked up by the automobile patrol. He has fully recovered from the wound, and is now on duty. He will appear as a witness against Lewis this morning.

## COUNCIL MEETS TO-NIGHT

Several Matters of Unusual Interest in Special Call.

A special meeting of the Common Council will be held to-night to act on the amendments made to the playground ordinance by the Board of Aldermen. No opposition to the amendment cutting out the Section 10, which house site is anticipated. Other matters included in the call for the Council are: proposition to submit the electric plant plans to an expert and making appropriation for the cost, and to incur in the award of the contract for the "Blues" Armory house, extra appropriation for fireproof construction. While not included in the call, it is anticipated that the Council will hear tonight the veto message from Governor Richardson on the Satterfield consolidation ordinance. The veto message was returned to the Governor on the night of January 10th at 8 o'clock. The "Masonic address," the principal speech of the occasion, will be delivered by Commonwealth's Attorney Minstree Folkes. Others Masons of prominence in the State and will make short addresses.

The association is made up of all past masters and the newly elected masters of the lodges throughout the State, and the reunion is one of the most enjoyable events of the Masonic year. The banquet will be served in the same banquet hall as was the same characterized the reunion.

## PAST MASTERS' REUNION

Mayor Richardson Calls It, and Minstree Folkes Will Speak.

and return to Hampton Roads on February 23d.

All talk of war died away, and the cruise became one of triumph and of peace. At Magdalena Bay, on the lower arm of California, the ships had target practice. The records made there proved to all the world that the men behind the guns on the fleet had no peers as marksmen.

While hundreds of thousands of people watched from the shores, the battleships steamed into the Golden Gate of the Pacific and came to anchor in San Francisco Bay last April.

Our Ship's Story.

Seven Virginia-built battleships passed out of the capes with the fleet more than a year ago, and those seven will return with it next month. Two other ships that started on the voyage—the Maine and the Alabama—products of the Cramp yard at Philadelphia, were unable to stand the test, and were detached from and ordered back to the United States. Their Virginia-built sister ships—the Missouri and the Illinois—stood the pace, and remained with the fleet.

At San Francisco Rear Admiral Evans hauled down his flag and Rear Admiral Sperry assumed command. The fleet sailed for Honolulu, then to Oahu. From that point it steamed to Auckland, New Zealand. Sydney was the next stop, and then the ships went to Manila. From that point they proceeded to Japan. There they were awarded the greatest reception of the voyage, and "at doublets as to Japan's friendship were dispelled. China was reached, and then the ships went on to Colombo. They proceeded to the Suez Canal.

Now the battleships are on a mission of mercy to the stricken Sicily. This mission ended, the battleships will visit the Mediterranean Sea, and will assemble at Gibraltar on February 9th. From that point, and on that date, the cruise across the Atlantic will begin.

Cruisers to Meet Fleet.

The newly-organized Atlantic fleet, composed of the battleships New Hampshire, Idaho, Mississippi, Maine and Alabama, the armored cruisers North Carolina and Montana, and the scout cruisers Chester, Birmingham and Salem, will steam from Hampton Roads next month to meet the battleship fleet and escort it back to Hampton Roads.

The fleet that will enter the Virginia Capes February 23d will be the largest and most powerful ever assembled in American waters.

There will be twenty-one great battleships, the flower of the American navy; two armored cruisers and three scout cruisers. The battleships will be the Connecticut, Louisiana, Vermont, Kansas, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Virginia, Nebraska, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Georgia, Missouri, Ohio, Maine, Illinois, Wisconsin, Alabama, Idaho, Mississippi, Kearsarge and Kentucky. The armored cruisers will be the North Carolina and Montana and the scout cruisers the Chester, Birmingham and Salem.

These ships will represent an aggregate of 322,000 tons, and will carry a total of more than 1,000 guns, including eighty-four 12-inch rifles, 112 8-inch rifles, 356 5-inch rifles, eight 16-inch rifles, and many smaller guns. The total number of officers and men will be about 21,000.

# ESCORTS HUSBAND BLOCK AND A HALF

Careful Wife Asks Police to See Him Safely from Main Street to Southern Station.

Showing her affection for her husband, who was to leave town on a business trip, a wife of a West End citizen last night called up the First Police Station and asked that an officer be sent to Fourteenth and Main Streets to escort the couple to the depot in Southern Station, about a block and a half away. "Be sure to send some one," she called, "it's so awfully dark here I'm afraid he might be held up or killed."

She called up the station twice, fearful that her request might be taken as a joke, and that an officer might not be sent. She was assured that an escort would be provided, and one of the policemen was dispatched at once to the corner. The husband alighted from the car at the proper point, and the gallant officer, taking him under his wing, escorted him to the depot in safety, traveling the whole distance and back without noting a sign of trouble. It is supposed that the husband all the way from Fourteenth and Main Streets to the train.

Earlier in the night some home-bowling party was held at the residence of one of the church members, and notified the First Station that there was a suspicious character lurking about the place. The house was held up and robbed. Two officers were sent to him. They followed him home, but only the vague shadow of a man could be seen. The suspicious character, like many others, was but a phantom of a dark and stormy night.

## PIANO COUPONS COMING IN

Company A. R. L. L. B. Secs Novel Scheme Start Well; Boxes Installed.

Great interest is being taken in the novel plan instituted by Company A. of the Richmond Light Infantry Blues' Battalion, for the purchase of a company piano.

The scheme is to have all the members and their friends save all the cigarette coupons they can get until they have a sufficient number to get the premium.

Coupons are already coming in rapidly, and up to date there are more than 400. It needs 40,000 to get the piano, and the men are sure that they will soon be able to get that number. The idea has been commended by all the officers, and the men are working with a vim to get the required 40,000.

# TELEPHONE PEOPLE WILL HEAR ANVIL CHORUS TO-DAY

Twenty-five Hundred Stations Thrown Out of Commission by Storm, Damage Being Estimated at \$20,000. Many Poles Fall in Suburban Districts.

TWENTY-FIVE hundred telephones were put out of commission yesterday by the storm, officials of the Southern Bell Company being of the opinion that they snapped between the hours of 1 and 2 A. M., when the wind became most violent. Roughly speaking, the damage will amount to about \$20,000. It came at a time when the company had hardly recovered from the Christmas snowstorm.

There may be a howl from subscribers to-day, although it is just as well to bear in mind the fact that it may require ten days or more to renew all connections. Seventy-five poles in the suburban sections fell under the weight of ice, ruining 600 stations, the 2,000 "dead" ones in the city proper being due to breaks in the "cut in" wires, which run from the distribution poles to residences and stores. So general was the damage that it was not confined to any particular part of the city. It goes everywhere.

Reports from Virginia points received by Superintendent Craws and Manager Tanner indicate that the brunt of the storm was local, for while some long distance lines were thrown out of gear, there was no serious damage to the service elsewhere in the State. Linesmen, pole gangs and electricians were sent out immediately.

They worked all day and night, messages being sent to other cities for extra men who got here last night. "We will rush the work of rebuilding lines with all possible speed," said Manager Tanner last night, "although it will require some time to get all of them in operation again. Subscribers whose service is interrupted will be given rebates, and you can state that we will put forth every effort to restore conditions to normal as quickly as possible."

But the manager doubtless realizes that he will hear the echo of the anvil chorus early to-day.

# TREE CAME BOUNCING INTO THEIR BED ROOM

Smashed Through Roof, Terrified Family's First Thought Being of Earthquake.

## NARROWLY MISSED PEOPLE

Caused Great Damage, but Shock Did Not Break Glass in Any of the Nine Windows.

Weighted down by hundreds of pounds of sleet, part of a huge elm tree in front of the house of Mr. William H. Brauer, near Fairmount, broke from the main trunk during the fiercest part of the storm early yesterday morning and fell with a crash on the roof of the house, directly under the roof broke in, and had it not been for the strength of the framing, every member of the household would have been injured. The weight of the falling tree was so great that one of the broken limbs was forced through the roof and projected into the front upstairs room, as reported by Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Davis.

Then Came the Ice.

Following it came the rain and ice, which poured on the floor. Mr. and Mrs. Davis rushed to the stairs, and the entire family soon met in the darkness of the hall below. Pandemonium reigned, and the fact that the shock was not that of an earthquake, as they thought at first, gave the scared and scantily-clad people but small satisfaction, for the house continued to tremble under the weight of the tree swept by the wind.

When the crash came, according to one of the members of the household, they were all sound asleep. Everybody rushed for the door, not waiting to get wraps. The first one outside found that the cause, and started fires. With every gust of wind the house trembled until late in the evening, when the weight was finally removed. None of the family cared to return to rest, feeling much safer on the ground floor with the doors at a convenient distance.

The tree is one of the oldest and probably the largest in Henrico county.

## Neighbors Removed Debris.

As soon as it became known that the tree had fallen, and that the weight was more than the house could safely bear, the neighbors congregated and worked from 8 o'clock in the morning to 3 in the afternoon before the debris could be cleared. Mr. C. W. Pollard, the contractor, was one of the first to pass on his way yesterday morning, to erect a temporary block wall, and located all the workmen to be had, and with ropes and pulleys, began the work of raising the log and getting it down clear of the building. It was a delicate task, and took the entire time of a dozen men. The tree measured in the largest part nearly three feet in diameter. It was felled, and the house will be greatly considering the weight and the force with which it fell. A curious fact in connection with the accident is that there are nine windows on the side next to the tree, and none of them was broken.

## HOLD SERVICE TO-NIGHT IN EAST MAIN STREET SALOON

Mr. and Mrs. William Asher, will hold service this evening from 7:30 to 8 o'clock in Howard's saloon, No. 1817 East Main Street. They will go from there to the Methodist Mission on the corner of Nineteenth and Main Streets. All of the week will be spent in this section of the city.

## Ice King Finds Ice Here

Mr. Albert Lewis, the ice and lumber king of Deep Creek, Pa., with Mrs. Lewis and their daughter, is registered at the Jefferson Hotel. The party is en route to Mr. Lewis' winter home, St. Augustine, Fla., and will go South Wednesday.

## Donation Day.

To-morrow will be observed as "Donation Day" at the Spring Street Home. Donations of groceries and supplies may be taken to the home, and the contributions to the president, Mrs. James Pleasants, 108 East Franklin Street.

## Tree Doctors to Save the Weeper

Westmoreland Club Willow Is Only Living Descendant of an Illustrious Past.

Tree doctors will be summoned to Richmond by the board of directors of the Westmoreland Club as soon as the weather moderates. The purpose of their visit will be an effort to save the life of the big weeping willow, which went to pieces in yesterday's storm under a burden of ice. Its limbs are rent asunder, and the trunk stands alone as a memento of an illustrious past.

# DAZZLING BY DAY, BUT DARK BY NIGHT

No Arc Lights Shine Upon Ice-Coated City That Looked Gorgeous and Grand.

(Continued from Page One, Column One.)

There had been dead yesterday. At several junction points, and indeed at other places, wires fell, causing a blockade and making it impossible to preserve a schedule. The condition of the tracks at sharp curves caused several blockades.

Every available man was put to work last night, and the report sent out by the street railway officials is that the lines will be in first-class condition to-day. The Lakeside line and the lines to Petersburg and Manchester were not seriously affected.

## Telegraph Service Impeded.

The chief operators of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies report much inconvenience, but it is possible to reach almost every city of any size. The trouble is almost entirely confined to the lines to Washington, reports twenty lines to Washington out of order, while ten lines south are out of commission. It is said by each company that the inconvenience is temporary, and will be righted to-day.

Trains are running on schedule time, and have not been thrown out by the storm, which is said to have been worse in this immediate vicinity. In comparison with the recent snowstorm, the damage yesterday to street car lines is not so great, and the general public will suffer less. Business will not be greatly interfered with, and will probably proceed to-day as if the storm had not paid its visit. Several hours of equable weather will clear the streets of ice, and by night, if there is no fall in temperature, the trees and shrubbery will have cast off their icy coating.

## Fog Follows Storm.

Yesterday's remarkable weather, which, with the dripping of water, intermingled with the falling of ice, made it almost impossible to tell whether or not it was raining, was followed last night by a dense fog, which may have appeared more severe on account of the darkness. Street car lights could not be seen a block away, and pedestrians had almost to grope their way through the darkness.

Many of the merchants on Broad and Main Streets kept lights in their stores as protection against theft. Fair weather is promised for Richmond tomorrow to-day and to-morrow, with a rise in temperature.

## Swedish Boy Pardoned.

Percy Generalist, the Swedish boy who recently came to this country and was placed in the county jail on the charge of trespass, was yesterday released on his own recognizance. The pardon was granted at the solicitation of the Rev. J. J. Scherer, who took the young man in charge as soon as he was out of jail.

## Bishop Describes the Stricken Italian City

Makes Interesting Statement About Earthquake's Ruin at Benefit Concert Given at the Bijou Theatre.

Under the direction of Professor Joseph C. Kessnich the concert held at the Bijou Theatre yesterday afternoon for the benefit of Italian earthquake sufferers was a most successful one. The program was a most interesting one, and the music was scheduled to begin every seat in the playhouse was taken and hundreds of people were turned away. Master Richmond, having ruled that the earthquake could be made every particular. Some time before the music was scheduled to begin every seat in the playhouse was taken and hundreds of people were turned away. Master Richmond, having ruled that the earthquake could be made every particular. Some time before the music was scheduled to begin every seat in the playhouse was taken and hundreds of people were turned away.

As master of ceremonies, Captain Frank Cunningham made a brief speech, explaining the object of the concert, and asking that the audience give liberally. He introduced Bishop Van de Vyver, who made an eloquent plea for the stricken people. In a most interesting way also he showed the geographical situation of the country affected by the earthquake and the peculiar conditions which tend to make their suffering more intense.

Of the special features the violin solo by Miss Annie Louise Reinhardt and the piano solo by Miss Myrtle Redford were the most artistic of the performance. Time after time both young women were cheered, and received great applause. The crowd was seated as much as possible, and the concert was a regular performance. All those seated in the lower portion of the house received at the door coupons for their seats, while the galleries were filled with the late comers, who were unable to get coupons.

Services in County Jail.

Services were held yesterday morning in the county jail by Mr. and Mrs. William Asher, the evangelists who are here in connection with the Chamber-Alexander meetings. The service was preached by Mr. Asher. Mrs. Asher played and sang. Sheriff Kemp was present to welcome the visitors.

# SECURE OPTION ON BATTLE ABBEY SITE

Reported Now That Real Estate Agents Have an Eye on Lot Near Museum.

## MATTER MUCH DISCUSSED

Board Not Willing to Abandon Central School Building, Which May Change Plans.

Discussion of the proposed site for the Battle Abbey has become the foremost topic in Confederate circles in Richmond, and already there is evidence of a sharp difference of opinion. The understanding here is that nothing now remains but to secure a proper site to begin the erection of the building. Report had it yesterday that an option had been secured by a real estate agency, presumably acting for some Confederate interest, on four city lots in the neighborhood of the Confederate Museum, the former Jefferson Davis Mansion.

None of the parties interested in discussing the matter at this stage of the negotiations. It is understood, however, that members of the City School Board have definitely indicated that they would not consent to the abandonment of Central School, thus carrying out the original plan for erecting the Abbey by the museum. The congested condition of the schools and the urgent needs for new buildings in the annexed territory, and in the western part of the city, make it, in the opinion of the members of the board, impracticable to discontinue work by removing or abandoning Central School, one of the most modern of the present public buildings.

## Cannot Get Central School

The real estate advocates of the scheme of moving Central School into the old High School building, have been rejected by the authorities, as the same scheme, although it is of cheap and antiquated construction, wanting in light and ventilation, necessitating artificial light in some of the rooms, and in other ways being badly designed for school purposes. As soon as the new High School building is in use, the board will recommend that the old building be completely abandoned as unsuitable for further purposes.

The apparent check to the plan for having the Abbey located by the museum, has led, it is reported, to an option being taken on four lots on the opposite side of the city, where a building to stand facing the Confederate Museum. Advocates of this site say that the hillside, now a ragged and unimproved lot, could be improved and made in a manner similar to Jefferson Park, toward which it faces, the slope being very much toward the city.

Sentiment, however, is believed to be growing against the location of the building in a neighborhood largely taken up by the medical colleges, hospitals and students' boarding-houses. The Woman's College, now in that section, is shortly to be removed to a site adjoining the College, and there is the possibility of the medical colleges erecting new buildings, which would be more commodious and attractive point.

## Many Favor West End.

Lee Camp has already a resolution pending for removing a site at the intersection of the Boulevard and Monument Avenue, two imposing double driveways, each of which are in line with the main thoroughfare of the city. While there has been no assurance as yet that the Battle Abbey Board will accept the site, it has been suggested, with some reason, apparently, that neighboring property-owners, including large investors in West End, might be induced to add attraction, might donate a site.